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Terri Sasser  
2004-2005 President

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## Voting Re-Scheduled for Nov. 4-18, 2005

Due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting following Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippi Public Health Association will conduct voting this year by ballot election. Jason Easley, Auditing Chairman, will be responsible for conducting the election. To assure a fair and accurate count, all ballots will be printed on colored paper and marked to assure only original ballots are returned. All MPHA members should receive a ballot on or around November 4, 2005. Please follow the instructions included with the ballot, cast your vote, and return them as indicated. **All ballots must be received on or before November 18, 2005, to be considered valid.** The remainder of this newsletter includes the full biographies of the candidates for President-Elect and APHA delegate, as well as “refresher” information regarding the Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws. If you have any questions about the amendments or the voting process, please call MPHA President Terri Sasser at 601-266-5251, or send an e-mail to [terri.sasser@usm.edu](mailto:terri.sasser@usm.edu).

## President-Elect Candidates

### Diane Carlisle

I am a Women's Healthcare Nurse Practitioner in Districts I and III, and I have been a member of MPHA since my employment in 1990. I served as section chairperson for the MD/NP section in 2004.

I believe that the public turns to public health employees during various crises (flu vaccine shortages, epidemics, biochemical scares, etc.) for all the answers. As public health employees we provide those answers, but we also need to let the public know that we are there for service when there is not a crisis or outbreak going on. As your MPHA president, I want us to become the voice that the public hears by increasing education and awareness of the jobs we do daily (...a job we do VERY WELL!) and focus on public health issues overall. We're more than just immunizations and STDs. We have worked a number of years now short staffed and without various resources. Our employees are our biggest assets. I would like for our employees to be heard – the VOICE the public hears...as we 'Toot our OWN HORNS!'

I am honored to be nominated as your MPHA president and vow to work hard to improve public health and address the issues concerning our images in the public's eye.

### Pam Miles

It is an honor to be nominated for MPHA president 2007. I began my public health career as a Medical Aide at the Issaquena/Sharkey Health Department in Rolling Fork. I worked as Clerk Typist, Medical Records Clerk, and Office Manager of Issaquena/Sharkey County Health Department before I transferred to my current position at District V. As a part of my job as DOSA, I have had the privilege of traveling throughout the state and working in many county health departments. As an active member of MPHA for the past 10 years, I have served as the Chairperson of the Clerical Section, served on the exhibits committee and the silent auction committee, and have been your treasurer for four years.

My goal, if elected as president, is to make solid decisions based on my experience. Being the President of MPHA is more than just planning for the annual conference. It is being a leader to the executive committee and the section committees. It is also working with the Department of Health to solicit their continued support of our association. I believe that working together as a team, we can achieve great things. I pledge to continue to

work toward providing quality educational sessions for MPHA members as well as keeping our annual conference an entertaining experience. I respectfully ask for your support.

## **APHA Delegate Candidates**

### **Dr. Nick Mosca**

It is my pleasure to be nominated for APHA Delegate for the Mississippi Public Health Association. As State Dental Director, I've enjoyed having the opportunity to lead our health department to address the oral health needs of all Mississippians. I appreciate the willingness, dedication, and hard work of the many public health employees that I have worked with. If elected as APHA delegate, I will work to disseminate information and strengthen collaborative relationships with APHA.

I understand the importance of disseminating information and keeping members engaged in my role as newsletter editor for the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors, an ASTHO affiliate. The summer newsletter can be viewed at <http://www.astdd.org/docs/OHMSummer20051.pdf>. I recently completed a DHHS Primary Care Health Policy Fellowship which provided an understanding of the importance of collaboration to meet the challenge of affecting health policy at the institutional, local, state, and national levels.

I understand that having an effective communication and collaboration with APHA will strengthen our affiliate chapter's voice on issues of regional and national public health significance. I believe that my professional experiences will allow me to serve as an effective APHA Delegate, and I appreciate your consideration and vote. I encourage you to contact me at [Nicholas.mosca@msdh.state.ms.us](mailto:Nicholas.mosca@msdh.state.ms.us) or 601-576-7500 if you have any questions or suggestions.

### **Terri Sasser**

I am honored to be chosen as a nominee for APHA Delegate for the Mississippi Public Health Association. I've been a member of the Association for 15 years, and have served actively as program chair, entertainment chair, and most recently as President of the Association. Following 15 years of service with the Mississippi Department of Health, I recently moved to Hattiesburg and am now the manager of CREATEs, the Center for Research, Evaluation, Assessment, and Training Services, in the College of Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. In that role, I work with other programs within the College, the community, and the state to coordinate research projects that affect public health and health care issues.

APHA is in the process of re-evaluating its relationship with local and state-level affiliates, and there are many opportunities for our Association during this time. This three-year period will be an important one not only for MPHA but for all the affiliates as we chart the course for our relationship over the years to come. I believe it's important to have someone in this position who understands the Association and will be a strong advocate for our needs as well as for public health in Mississippi.

If elected APHA delegate, I promise to work diligently to represent our Association and carry your concerns as members to the national level. I will also work to improve the coordination and communication of information from APHA to all MPHA members. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at [terri.sasser@usm.edu](mailto:terri.sasser@usm.edu) or 601-266-5251. Thank you for your support.

## **Vote on Proposed Changes to MPHA By-Laws**

In addition to voting for a President-Elect and an APHA Delegate, MPHA members have the opportunity to vote on some very important changes to the Association By-Laws. We've discussed the changes in the previous newsletters, and have so far received a positive response on the proposals. The full text of the proposals as well as an explanation of the decision behind each of them is included in those newsletters which are available at the MPHA website, [www.HealthyMS.com/mpha](http://www.HealthyMS.com/mpha).

As a reminder, the changes proposed for the by-laws are:

1. To increase dues structure for all levels of membership,
2. To give the Executive Committee the authority to hire an Executive Director for MPHA,
3. To create an MPHA Outstanding Member Award to be given annually, and
4. To assign the parliamentary duties to the President-Elect